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REHEARSING FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE! Pictured above are scenes from a recent rehearsal at Miss Barbara's School of Dance for the upcoming "Joko Ben'Nah" (First Link). A Ballet of West African Dance and Drum to be held on Saturday, June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts, 450 Masten Avenue @ Ferry. The event, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Buffalo's Juneteenth Festival, is being presented by the African African-American United Artists Association in collaboration with the African American Cultural Center. The evening will also include live music Project Access to Afreka, special guest artists, an African Market vendors and more! Admission is \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under and are on sale at the African American Cultural Center, 350 Masten Avenue. PHOTOS STARLIGHT

Services Set for Calvin W. Loatman, Buffalo Hall of Fame Guitarist

Buffalo Hall of Fame guitarist Calvin W. Loatman, died Monday (May 18) in Snellville, Georgia where he had lived for nearly 30 years. He was 59 years old and under hospice care.



Funeral services will beheld at noon Wednesday (May 27) in New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 165 Doat Street.

Loatman, who has many family still in Buffalo, was described by friends as kind and fair. He started playing when his father brought home a ukulele he won in a raffle. He got his first break at age 16 as a substitute guitarist with Pneu Breed, performing at the former Electric Sands Hotel and Nightclub at

Main at Tupper Streets.

When he was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 1998 he and his band was credited for breaking the color barrier in the suburbs for local musicians. Loatman also performed with Jagged Edge, Solar 7, Junction West and others while in Buffalo. He moved to Atlanta in 1986. He was a staff musician at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga. for nearly 20 years until he became ill.

In Atlanta he produced outdoor shows and can be heard on the albums "Word of Mouf" by Ludacris "More Than Enough" and many others. He took part in the Legends of Funk tours starting in 2009, performing with the Ohio Players.

ON STAGE

***Pre-Father's Day Comedy Jam, June 6, Renovation Church, 567 Hertel Ave., doors open 6 p.m. show starts@ 7 p.m. featuring Jon Cesar, Bishop, Cecelia Spencer and John Schuta; tickets \$10 available at Renovation Church, 567 Hertel; on line**

***Pre-summer R&B Jumpoff with the Nickel City Ballers Band featuring Buffalo's own "Mr. R&B" Chauncey Northington, 4 Below, & special guest appearances by Ms. Trina & Sharon, Saturday, June 6, 8 p.m. The Groove Lounge 1210 Broadway. Tickets \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door (may be purchased at the Groove Lounge box office)**

***Ella, Louis and All That Jazz, A tribute to jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong featuring Broadway star Marva Hicks and Columbus Jazz Orchestra artistic director Byron Stripling, Sat. June 6 @ 8 pm. Kleinhans Music Hall. A Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra event. 885-5000 / bpo.org**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGISLATOR MILLER WILLIAMS! Pictured above are scenes from Legislator Barbara Miller Williams recent "star studded" birthday bash! Congratulations Legislator Williams! PHOTOS PRINCESS PHOTOGRAPHY

Spades Competition

A Spades Competition event will be held on June 4 at the New Golden Nugget, 2046 Fillmore Ave. for card players 25